patients with non insulin dependent diabetes mellitus (NIDDM or Type 2 Diabetes) who are poorly controlled on insulin and they have also been used by some physicians as an add on agent in NIDDM patients who are on maximal doses of other oral agents. Rosiglitazone and pioglitazone are already available in the Indian Market.

Ban of use of animals for medical purposes

490. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that present ban on use of animals for research and medical purposes has badly affected production on BCG Vaccine, thereby jeopardizing National Immunization Programme and production of venom antidote and several other crucial vaccines;

(b) if so, what action has Government taken to resolve the issue; and

(c) by when these laboratories are likely to get their full requirement of animals, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) (a) to (c) The communication dated 30.1.2002 of Committee for the Purpose for Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA) directing BCG vaccine laboratory, Chennai (the sole manufacturer of BCG Vaccine in India) to suspend experiments on guinea pigs would have definitely resulted in jeopardisation of BCG Vaccine supply to the National Immunization Programme had the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature, Chennai not intervented in the matter and issued a Stay Order dated 8.4.2002 on CPCSEA's communication dated 30.1.2002.

Similarly, the production and testing of vaccines and antisera has been badly affected at Central Research Institute, Kasauli such as:

* The production of Anti Snake Venom Serum and Anti Rabies Serum has been stopped since December, 2001.
* Japanese Encephalitis production enhancement is hampered due to non-availability of mice from other sources.
* The final release of vaccine/anti-sera for commercial use is being affected as the testing of vaccine/anti-sera depends on the use of small animals such a guinea pigs.

All the issues relating to role of CPCSEA on medical research and amemdments to rules, procedures etc. that may be needed, has been taken up with Committee of Secretariat.

Ban on non-reusable plastic items

491. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Tamil Nadu has banned non-reusable plastic items in the interest of public health;

(b) whether there is any a proposal with Government to impose similar ban throughout the country;

(c) if so, whether a bill will be introduced for the purpose; and

(d) if not, whether Government's would consider the feasibility of such a ban for the benefit of public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) No, Sir.

Upgradation of Government Ayurveda College, Raipur

†492. SHRI RAMDHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to upgrade Government Ayurveda College, Raipur has been received by Governmment; and

(b) if so, the action taken, so far, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Proposal for Grant-in-aid of Rs. 49.91 lakhs for capital works and purchase of equipment etc. has been received from State Government of Chattisgarh.

(b) Grant-in-aid could not be sanctioned as Utilization Certificate in respect of grant of Rs. 5.00 lakhs sanctioned to the college during 1991-92 is awaited.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.